

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF NANCY LONSDALE

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is essential that those of us who have the high honor and privilege of serving in this body regularly remind ourselves how dependent we are upon our families, our friends, our supporters, our volunteers and most especially upon our dedicated staffs, to carry out the work of the nation that has been entrusted to our care.

It is difficult, at times, for those who do not work in this body to appreciate the incredible demands that are regularly placed upon our intellect, our time, our health and on numerous occasions, our sheer physical endurance, as we labor to conduct the people's business. Yet the opportunities to do good and to seek the answers to the challenges of our times are so great that, however heavy the burden, we heed the call to duty.

None of this work, however, is done by Members of Congress alone. In fact, without the strong, constant, and faithful service that is rendered to us and to our country by our professional staff the work would be impossible to perform. Every day, we rely upon their knowledge, their wisdom and their moral strength of character to carry a hundred different missions . . . from developing legislation to solving constituent problems to offering counsel and advice on the complex issues that come before the Congress.

Like many of my colleagues, we are most often reminded of the invaluable service our staff members render to us and to our nation when one of our team retires or moves on. This is the case with me today.

For ten years, both in Washington and in my District office at Doylestown, Pennsylvania, Ms. Nancy Lonsdale has been a devoted and capable member of my professional staff. And for years before that, she served as a volunteer in a number of my campaigns for state office. During most of that time, she served as my Executive Assistant and Scheduler at home in the district. In that position she was the steward and guardian of life's most precious commodity . . . time. Through all those years she has served as an honest broker, ably accommodating the desire of the thousands of constituents who wished to see me with all the other myriad demands placed on a Member of Congress.

Perhaps what I am most appreciative of is her dedication throughout those years, when my children were so young, to carve out a time for me to perform the most important duty in my life . . . to be a father to my children. And not just a loving and caring father, but even more importantly, one who had the time to be truly involved in the life of my growing family.

But I am in her debt as well for many other services she rendered. Charged with the task of managing my schedule, she yet found time to take on some of the most difficult casework, including the needs of service men and women on active duty and families in crises.

To everything she does and has done, Nancy Lonsdale brings a level of commitment, a sense of purpose, and a degree of compassion unsurpassed by anyone I have ever known.

All of us who have had the honor to work with her these past years are better people because of our association with her. For in addition to her work ethic, she brings a high and uncompromising moral standard matched with an inquiring mind imbued with an abiding sense of the value and the dignity of every human being.

In her last will and testament, the founder of Nancy's alma mater, Sophia Smith, wrote these words about the woman's college she founded, "It is my wish that the institution be so conducted, that during all coming time it shall do the most good to the greatest number. I would have it a perennial blessing to the country and the world."

I can attest that in the case of Nancy Lonsdale, Smith College alumni that wish has been more than fulfilled. Nancy Lonsdale is a blessing, to her family, to her colleagues, to her country and to the world she labors so tirelessly to improve.

PUTTING THE PEDAL TO THE METAL: ACCELERATING THE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE OF AMERICA ACT

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 770, "Putting the Pedal to the Metal: Accelerating the Energy Independence of America" Act, legislation creating a broad tax credit for the production of alternative fuel vehicles.

Transportation accounts for about two-thirds of the oil consumption in the United States, and we are 97 percent dependent on oil for our transportation needs. If our nation is going to have a strategy for energy security, that strategy must begin with transportation fuels. As we all learned during the California energy crisis, any strategy for energy security has to be based in alternative sources of production, to ensure that we have we are never again held captive by one company or industry.

When enacted, this legislation will offer a tax credit for every dollar invested by companies towards the production of alternative fuel vehicles. The credit will allow companies to take a credit equal to the percent of investment in the production of alternative fuel vehicles, so if a company spends 40% of their time and expense on producing alternative fuel vehicles, they would receive a 40% credit against its tax burden.

Hopefully, this will spur small companies and large companies alike, to move towards the production of alternative fuel vehicles. This landmark legislation will help break the old cycle of automobile manufacturers failing to sufficiently invest in alternative fuel vehicle technology, because it was not profitable enough.

Many companies, large and small, are already in the business of producing alternative fuel vehicles, such as L3 Research, Inc. in San Diego. L3 Research Inc. has a prototype, the L3 "Enigma"—a hybrid-electric sports car. This is the world's first hybrid-electric sports car, faster than a Corvette, and it recharges from a common wall outlet. This is the kind of innovative, next-generation, vehicle production that will benefit from this legislation.

During his State of the Union address, President Bush rolled out an initiative to fund the development of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. While I support this worthy goal, most experts estimate that fuel cell powered vehicles are a generation away.

Mr. Speaker, we don't need to wait many years to support alternative fuel vehicles—it's time to put the pedal to the metal and accelerate the energy independence of America. Pass H.R. 770.

HONORING MAE EMMA BROOKS OF CENTRE, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mae Emma Brooks of Centre, Alabama. On February 22, 2003, she will be honored by St. Mary's United Methodist Church, of Centre, Alabama, which has been her church for the past 74 years.

Mrs. Brooks began attending St. Mary's in 1920 at the age of 5 and became a member of the church in 1929. In addition to raising 6 children and her membership in the Progressive Women's Guild Order of the Eastern Star, Mrs. Brooks has devoted her entire life to her church. She was the Church Secretary for 42 years, the former President of the Women's Society of Christian Service, a choir member for more than 40 years and head of the Board of the Communion Stewards for more than 50 years.

Because of her devotion to St. Mary's United Methodist Church and its congregation, I salute Mae Emma Brooks and join this fine church in thanking Mrs. Brooks for her generous life of service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PEDRO CAPO AND THE ENTIRE CAPO FAMILY

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Pedro Capo for becoming the first Hispanic to serve as president of the National Home Furnishings Association. Mr. Capo's journey is inspiring and it speaks volumes of determination, passion, and family values.

Approximately 36 years ago, Pedro Capo's father, Manuel, and two brothers fled communist Cuba in a 24-foot wooden boat motored only by a converted water pump. Their boat was named "El Dorado," the Spanish word for dolphin. This name was to foreshadow the success to come, both in reaching their destination and continuing a successful family tradition. Upon arriving in the United States Mr. Capo's father and three brothers used the experience gleaned in the family's successful furniture shop in Cuba and shortly after they founded El Dorado Furniture.

The Capo family reflects traditional Cuban values, hard-work, self-reliance, self-confidence and determination.